

which about two-thirds were successful. Of the factories and companies in Shanghai affected by strikes in 1927, more than ninety-five per cent, were Chinese and less than five per cent, foreign in ownership. A national labor party was formed in Shanghai in 1913. An all-China labor congress was held in Canton in May, 1922, and in the preceding months Hongkong had been paralyzed by strikes of seamen and sympathetic workers. It will be recalled that, as the Kuomintang moved northward, the radical wing organized unions of laborers and that these made demands, often preposterous, upon their employers. It is significant of the changes in progress in China, that some of the new unions were composed exclusively of women, and that women also joined some of the trade unions of which the members were chiefly men. With the reaction of the moderates and conservatives within the Kuomintang against the radicals, and the vigorous action taken against Communists, many labor unions disappeared and others became less vocal. By no means all of them died, however. The strongholds of the labor union have been in Canton, where the radical movement first centered, and Shanghai, which has led the nation in the new types of industries. So schooled in the tradition of combination have Chinese workers been by the guild that the organization of Chinese workers and operators into new types of groupings demanded by the changing situation probably has been greatly hastened. So far, however, the labor union has been employed chiefly for purposes of compulsion and for pressure in politics.

It must be said that the labor unions have often had ground for legitimate protest. Judged by standards now prevailing in the

West, the working day is inordinately long, the hygienic and safety conditions in factories often shockingly bad, and wages low. Usually no effective rules exist against child labor. There are a few humane employers, the more advanced of whom have devices for profit-sharing with employees and provide ample light and ventilation in their factories. In 1929 the National Government promulgated a factory law with some enlightened provisions. The Ministry of Industry, Commerce, and Labor has had among its functions the regulation of labor. Some of the Protestant Christian groups have the welfare of the worker at heart and even the conservative wing of the Kuomintang has not dared to go counter